

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05637 021240Z

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ACTION H-03

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R 021052Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4170

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5637

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF SENATOR ABOUREZK

1. CLOVIS MAKSOUD, ARAB LEAGUE INFORMATION OFFICER, WHO DUE TO LEAVE THIS WEEKEND ON ANOTHER MISSION TO U.S. INFORMED EMBOFF THIS MORNING THAT NIGHT OF APRIL 30 HE HAD TELEPHONE CALL FROM SENATOR ABOUREZK INDICATING LATTER PLANS THREE DAY VISIT LEBANON ON OR ABOUT MAY 23, AND HE INTENDS BRING WITH HIM RATHER LARGE ENTOURAGE. MAKSOUD UNABLE ASCERTAIN WHO, BECAUSE TELEPHONE CONNECTION POOR. AT TIME OF TELEPHONE CALL MAKSOUD WAS ENTERTAINING IMAM MUSA SADR. LATTER, WHEN HE LEARNED OF SENATOR'S INTENTIONS, SAID HE WISHED TO BE INCLUDED AMONG PERSONS WHO WOULD HOST FUNCTIONS FOR CODEL. IMAM ALSO WANTS TO BE PERSON WHO WILL ARRANGE ABOUREZK'S TRADITIONAL VISIT TO KFAYR, HIS ANCESTRAL VILLAGE IN THE ARQOUB, WHICH I BELIEVE HAS SUFFERED SOMEWHAT FROM ISRAELI BOMBARDMENTS. CLOVIS ALSO SAID GHASSAN TUENI WANTS TO ARRANGE DINNER FOR ABOUREZK AND THAT TUENI MIGHT BE THE MAN TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH ARAFAT AND PLO LEADERS, FOR MAKSOUD AT THAT TIME WILL STILL BE IN THE STATES.

2. FACT THAT SENATOR WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE FREEWHEELING WILDLY DOES NOT REPEAT NOT BOTHER ME TOO MUCH. THE ONLY POINT THAT GIVES ME SOME CONCERN IS THAT HIS PRINCIPAL CONTACTS HERE, I.E., TUENI, ETC. ARE NOT REPEAT NOT EXACTLY IN PRESIDENT FRANGIE'S BEST BOOKS. I WOULD HOPE THAT ABOUREZK WILL NOT FORGET THAT FRANGIE IS STILL THE PRESIDENT OF THIS COUNTRY AND AS THE BEST KNOWN AMERICAN SENATOR IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, HE WILL REALIZE THAT HE MUST TAKE FRANGIE INTO CONSIDERATION. I WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTERTAIN ABOUREZK

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AT A DINNER AND COULD HAVE ELEMENTS CLOSE TO FRANGIE, WHICH MIGHT

OFFSET HIS VISIT HERE BEING UNDER ANTI-FRANGIE AUSPICES. NEED-
LESS TO SAY, ANY INFO THAT DEPARTMENT CAN FURNISH US RE ABOUREZK'S
PLANS AND THOSE ACCOMPANYING HIM WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL. I WOULD
HAVE NO OBJECTION TO HIS KNOWING THAT MAKSOUD CONTACTED THE
EMBASSY, WHICH MIGHT HELP REMIND THE SENATOR THAT THERE IS AN
EMBASSY HERE AND THAT AS A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN LEGISLATOR HE
SHOULD NOT EXCLUDE US COMPLETELY FROM HIS PLANS AND DISREGARD SOME
OF THE LOCAL POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES.
GODLEY

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